

**"The biggest gap in these negotiations over a possible government shutdown is between liberals here in Washington, D.C., and the American people"**

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Congressman Mike Pence gave the following speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today in support of a one-week Continuing Resolution that also would fully fund the Department of Defense for the remainder of the fiscal year:

"I rise in support of the Department of Defense and Further Continuing Appropriations Act. This one-week Continuing Resolution will fully fund the Department of Defense for the remainder of the fiscal year and reduce government spending by \$12 billion and it is worthy of the support of every member of Congress.

"Look, no one wants a government shutdown. But if we don't take a stand for fiscal discipline in Washington, D.C., we are going to shut down the future for our children and grandchildren.

"To be honest with you, I'm frustrated that we are here again with another stopgap measure. I'm frustrated that liberals in the Senate continue to resist efforts to accept even modest budget cuts in this year's budget. We are talking about a two percent reduction in this year's budget. That's unacceptable to the liberals down the hallway.

"It seems like liberals in the Senate would rather shut the government down than accept a two percent cut in the federal budget. It seems like liberals in the Senate would rather shut the

government down so they can continue to borrow money from China to fund the largest abortion provider in America.

"But in this moment I'm going to support this resolution because the troops come first. We cannot put fiscal battles ahead of support for those who are currently engaged in America's real battles. This CR reaffirms our commitment to our troops. It fully funds DOD for the balance of the year and it reaffirms our commitment to our most cherished ally, Israel, during these uncertain days.

"Earlier this week Senator Reid said the biggest gap in negotiations is between Republicans and Republicans. Nothing could be further from the truth. The biggest gap in these negotiations over a possible government shutdown is between liberals here in Washington, D.C., and the American people. That's where the gaps lie.

"The American people want to restore fiscal discipline and provide for the common defense and they know we can do it. Today Senator Reid took to the floor of the Senate and called this very resolution, 'a sure-fire way to shut down the government.'

"And astonishingly, the Commander in Chief has threatened to veto a bill that would fund our troops at a time of war. Astonishing.

"Look, we are going to pass this Continuing Resolution. We are going to fund our troops in harm's way and stationed all across the world and all across this nation.

"And if Democrats here in Washington would rather play political games and shut down the government than support our troops, defend our Treasury, and respect our values, then I say, 'shut it down.' And I'm certain the American people are going to know who to blame."